



County of San Diego

NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE
AGENCY DIRECTOR

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
3255 CAMINO DEL RIO SOUTH, MAIL STOP P-531
SAN DIEGO, CA 92108-3806
(619) 563-2700 • FAX (619) 563-2705

ALFREDO AGUIRRE
DIRECTOR, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

September 30, 2016

TO: Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB)

FROM: Alfredo Aguirre, LCSW, Director
Behavioral Health Services

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT – OCTOBER 2016

1. INFORMATION ITEM: BHS Procurement Board Letter Update

At the BHAB meeting on September 1, 2016, the board voted to approve a Board Letter for upcoming BHS Procurements to be presented to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on September 13 which contained actions on 20 programs across five recommendations. This draft was subsequently split into two Board Letters as there was additional direction to create a more robust procurement Board Letter to bolster Agency-wide services.

Please note summary of changes:

- a. The final September 13 Board Letter included action on two programs plus one contract extension
- b. The subsequent October 4 Board Letter included the 18 remaining programs (previously approved by BHAB), plus:
 - Seven contract extensions (Recommendations #4 and #6)
 - Four contract amendments (Recommendation #5) including an increase to the Locum Tenens (temporary staffing) contract to support Public Health Services in the event the Zika virus should require additional resources.

All three above referenced Board Letters are available upon request and there will be no further action needed. An update will be given at the October 6 BHAB meeting with time to address any questions.

2. LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO UPDATES / SPECIAL EVENTS

2.1 BHS Celebrates New Live Well San Diego Partner

RI International became the newest *Live Well San Diego* partner on September 27, 2016. RI International provides informational meetings for partners and community members that educate and activate healthcare innovation in support of both recovery and community inclusion. RI International links the consumer voice with the behavioral health community, and BHS is proud to sponsor them as a *Live Well San Diego* partner.

2.2 **BHS Community Forums**

From the months of August through October 2016, BHS is conducting 12 community engagement forums countywide. The forums are held annually and serve as one of the most extensive set of venues for gathering input from the community on important mental health and alcohol and other drug services issues. Feedback from the forums is subsequently compiled, analyzed and integrated into BHS planning.

This year's forums feature interactive activities presented in a "café" style to fully capture the discussion, along with impactful artwork created during the forums to visually represent the collective feedback. If you are interested in attending a forum, please register online by visiting BHS.forums.eventbrite.com or by calling Gina Brown at (619) 563-2762.

2.3 **Diversity and Inclusion**

On August 25th, the BHS Morale Committee held its first ever multi-cultural event for staff celebrating different cultures with a sampling of food from around the world, display boards with information from different countries and performances honoring practices that are rooted in a variety of cultural traditions. Food tastings were provided by staff and included cuisine from Russia, France, Mexico, the Philippines, East Asia, Pacific Islands, Portugal and more. In addition to being one of the most popular BHS celebrations to-date, this event aligns with the mission of the County's *Diversity and Inclusion Initiative* which continually seeks ways to create an inclusive culture that embraces diversity and supports a workplace and community that is healthy, safe and thriving.

2.4 **Recovery Happens Recap**

On September 17th, BHS held its annual *Recovery Happens* event at Liberty Station. The event celebrated those on the recovery journey and was attended by more than 300 people, including exhibitors from over 60 organizations.

This day of celebration started with a performance by Carmelia Bell and the House of Metamorphosis Choir, including a moving performance of the National Anthem by Andre Caston, with color guard provided by Veterans Village of San Diego.

Personal stories were shared (including one from Tommy Sablan of KyXy 96.5 FM radio) and a Recovery Countdown followed. Other stage events included a drum blessing, a performance by The Fellowship Center's Big Book Band and Drum Brigade, and an engaging beat box theatrical performance by Urban Beats. There was also an open-mic performance opportunity which was enjoyed by all.

2.5 **August and September Events Recap**

BHS hosted tables at seven events in August and September, providing information on BHS services to those in the community who might not otherwise know where to go for help. The community events focused on varying topics including veterans, faith-based issues, recovery, suicide prevention and children's mental health. These events included:

- *Navigate your Health;*
- *Department of Veterans Affairs Mental Health Summit;*
- *Let's Connect Expo San Ysidro;*
- *Recovery Happens;*
- *Faith in Healing;*

- *Early Childhood Mental Health Conference; and*
- *Community Alliance for Health Minds Forum.*

2.6 **Meeting of the Minds Conference**

The 19th annual *Meeting of the Minds Conference* will be held on October 14th from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Harbor Island. This annual event brings the Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug communities for a day of learning and sharing. The theme this year is *Embracing the Past; Creating the Future*.

3. **UPDATE FROM ADULT OLDER ADULT (AOA) SYSTEMS OF CARE**

3.1 **Supported Employment Initiative**

In December 2013, Behavioral Health Services embarked on the Supported Employment Initiative through the leadership of San Diego Workforce Partnership in collaboration with Corporation for Supportive Housing. The first step was to develop a Five-Year Strategic Employment Plan that focuses on the evidence based practice of Supported Employment and that highlights other promising models that are effective in increasing employment for those with lived experience of serious mental illness (SMI). The Health and Human Services Agency's Five Year Strategic Employment Plan 2014-2019 identifies several key goals that will become the foundation of the implementation plan. These include Employment Planning in San Diego, Employment Strategies and Best Practices, and Opportunities for Collaboration. Fiscal Year 2015-16 accomplishments include:

- Standardization of language in Statements of Work in County contracts for Full Service Partnerships and Clubhouses.
- BHS Data Book Fiscal Year 2014-15 documents a 1% increase in clients "seeking a job" and "being competitively employed" from the previous year when discussion of Supported Employment Initiative began.

Work completed in Fiscal Year 2015-16 is expected to result in further improvements for individuals with SMI seeking to become competitively employed, as this initiative has expanded opportunities for employment to play a role in the recovery experience.

One new approach in Fiscal Year 2015-16 was the implementation of Noble Works. Noble Works is an MHSA Innovation-supported and subsidized employment program that aims to expand the range of employment opportunities for Transitional Age Youth and Adult and Older Adult individuals with SMI throughout San Diego County. In collaboration with UPAC, Pathways, and NAMI San Diego, Noble Works seeks to promote self-determination and empowerment by encouraging the inclusion of employment in the recovery experience. Noble Works promotes awareness about mental health and co-occurring disorders and their impact on employment to support individuals with mental illness further integrate into the community. With multiple components to this innovative project, the most valuable will be the Social Enterprise, which proposes to train individuals on computer repairs to develop a consumer run computer repair program.

3.2 **Hotel Churchill**

The San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) collaborated with Housing Development Partners (HDP) to renovate the historic Hotel Churchill in downtown San Diego to create a total of 72 affordable housing units for homeless individuals. Each studio unit includes a kitchen and bathroom. The building includes on-site social services and case management for its residents.

Funding for the renovation includes \$1.8 million in Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Housing Program funding through the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA). While most units are for veterans, the City of San Diego Housing Commission committed 16 sponsor-based subsidies for MHSA clients to use at the Hotel Churchill. This funding leverages operating costs for the developers and facilitates rent reduction for those tenants holding a subsidy.

The 16 MHSA units will house individuals with serious mental illness (SMI) who are currently enrolled in Catalyst and Center Star ACT programs. Catalyst provides services to Transitional Age Youth ages 16-25 with SMI who are homeless or at-risk of being homeless. Center Star ACT provides treatment for individuals with a history of justice-system involvement who have been diagnosed with SMI and have a justice related issue.

3.3 Special Needs Housing Program - Update

In 2004, the California Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the CalHFA Housing Program set aside approximately \$33 million for San Diego County to develop permanent supportive housing. These housing units are dedicated for homeless persons with SMI who are enrolled in Full Service Partnership/Assertive Community Treatment (FSP/ACT) programs. Behavioral Health Services allocated MHSA Housing funds for 241 (current and proposed) permanent supportive housing units.

On September 29, 2016, the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors approved the addition of \$10 million in one-time MHSA funding to leverage the development of additional permanent supportive housing. The \$10 million was assigned to the CalHFA fund in 2016. The additional \$10 million will enhance the County's efforts to increase housing stock in San Diego County and help create approximately 69 new permanent supportive housing units.

3.4 Program Highlight: Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Oasis Clubhouse

Pathways Community Services operates the only TAY countywide clubhouse, the Oasis Clubhouse, located in the Central Region. This member-run clubhouse is contracted to serve 375 TAY annually and offers an array of therapeutic and educational groups and activities during the week. In Fiscal Year 2015-16, Oasis had 4,822 member visits from 381 unique TAY members. Oasis had 69 members achieve competitive employment, 364 participate in volunteer activities and 510 who received vocational training/supportive employment services. Ninety-one percent (91%) of the TAY served in this clubhouse reported satisfaction with services.

Success Story:

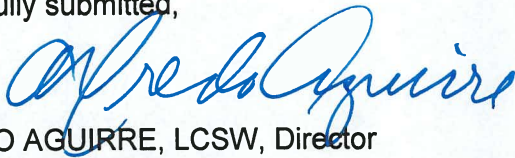
We have a participant who prior to coming to Oasis, was not engaged in services. He arrived with little to his name and was barely able to talk about what he had gone through. He sat next to me and we were able to talk about his life. He was born healthy and lived a normal life as a boy. When he was ten he suffered a heart attack and had to get a pacemaker. As he grew into an adult he had to take it slow to not stress his heart. He began to withdraw from his friends and started hanging out on the streets. His mental health began to deteriorate as well. He dropped out of high school and was homeless for a year.

One of his friends said he was going to Oasis Clubhouse because they have free lunches. He decided to join them that day. We spent the day talking about the struggles he had gone through and how hard life had become. We talked about his diagnosis,

homelessness and the goals he had in life. I was able to refer him to Catalyst and to the Oasis Clubhouse. He became a daily member of Oasis and was housed within the week through Catalyst (an Assertive Community Treatment program for TAY).

He started showing improvement, talking more openly with every passing day. With time he became interested in going back to school and was considering the possibility of going to college. It was difficult but he was ready for anything. Once he started school he did not look back. Finishing his diploma was his first step, and soon after he got his first job in over four years. He moved out of his Independent Living Facility (ILF) into his new apartment downtown, his first apartment ever. He now has worked steadily for the past three years and continues his education at Mesa College with hopes to transfer to UC Berkley or San Diego State. He volunteers regularly at Oasis Clubhouse as an intern and also assists with coaching the Oasis softball team. He is amazing and truly inspires those he works with.

Respectfully submitted,



ALFREDO AGUIRRE, LCSW, Director
Behavioral Health Services

AA:tf

cc: Nick Macchione, MS, MPH, FACHE, HHSA Director
Holly Salazar, MPH, BHS Assistant Director of Departmental Operations